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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SEP 1 9 2002

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit 1617

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Löftroth et al.

APPLICATION NO: 08/945,655

Examiner: Webman, Edward J.

FILED: October 24, 1997

FOR: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION FOR SUSTAINED RELEASE

OF THE HMG-CoA REDUCTASE INHIBITOR FLUVASTATIN

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated April 16, 2002, for which the time to respond extends to and includes September 16, 2002, due to the attached two-month petition for extension of time, Applicant elects prosecution of Group I, claims 1-6, 15-22 and 29 and polyethylene oxide as the polymer, with\traverse.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now considered to be in condition for allowance.

Novartis Corporation Patent and Trademark Dept. 564 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ 07901-1027

Date: September 16, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Loeschorn Reg. No. 35590

FOR GREGORY FERRARO

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